

## George A Harms | Sr. Fire Investigator, CFI, CFEI, CVFI, FIT

4515 Daly Dr Ste M, Chantilly, VA 20151

(703) 802-9771

[george.harms@efiglobal.com](mailto:george.harms@efiglobal.com)

### Professional Summary:

George Harms has 44 years of experience in the fire service between the U.S Air Force, Veterans Administration Fire Department, 167<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Air National Guard, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Fire Department, Loudoun County Virginia Fire Marshal's Office, The West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office and NEFCO Fire Investigations. He also has extensive investigative experience working as a Task Force Office with the Martinsburg WV ATF Field Office. He has training in the field of fire science, fire dynamics, fire investigations, and criminal investigations through his various state and federal classes he has attended throughout his career.

### Licenses and Certifications:

International Association of Arson Investigators, Certified Fire Investigator (IAAI-CFI) License # 46-083114  
Fire Investigation Technician, International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI-FIT), 2016  
National Association of Fire Investigators, Certified Fire and Explosive Investigator (NAFI-CVFI), 2015 License #8046-3250v  
National Association of Fire Investigators, Certified Vehicle Fire Investigator (NAFI-CVFI), 2015 License #8046-3250v  
Private Security Services, Virginia Department of Criminal Justice, Virginia, License # RE-1095893  
Federal Aviation Administration part 107 Small UAS (drone) 2022 license C1651016  
Forensic Fire Investigator II, Virginia Department of Fire Programs – 2008  
Certified by the ATF in Advance Post Blast Investigations 2005  
Fire Investigator II (NFPA 1033) – Virginia Department of Fire Programs, 1988  
Fire Inspector II (NFPA 1031) – Virginia Department of Fire Programs, 1988  
Firefighter III – Virginia Department of Fire Programs  
Hazardous Materials Operations – Virginia Department of Fire Programs 1995  
Proficient in the operation of the Matterport 3D Scanner and the Docusketch 3D scanner for fire scenes and crimes scenes documentation.  
Private Investigator, North Carolina, #652020

### Court Qualifications/ Depositions:

Litigation CV available upon request.

### Professional Experience:

NEFCO Fire Investigations, Fire Investigator 2023 until 2024  
West Virginia State Fire Marshal's Office, Fire Investigator/ Supervisor 2010-2023.  
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Task Force Officer 2012-2023  
Loudoun County Virginia Fire Marshal's Office, (Part-Time), Fire Investigator/Inspector 2000-2010

Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority Firefighter/Fire Inspector/Investigator. 1986-2010.  
Veterans Administration Hospital Fire Department, Martinsburg WV, Captain 1982-1986.  
167<sup>th</sup> West Virginia Air National Guard, Firefighter/Rescue Team 1983-1998  
U.S. Airforce, Firefighter 1977-1981

### Specialized Education:

- DCARI Fire Investigation Training-Fire Scene Photography (1.5 Hours) Tested August 2024
- CFI Trainer Net Electric & Hybrid Vehicles Design Basics (3 hours) Tested August 2024
- FAA Safety Team Aviation Part 107 Small Uas Recurrent-Part 61 Pilots (5 hours) August 2024 (Tested) Certificate Number 1567209-20240809-00515
- CFI Trainer Net. The Deposition Part 1: Format, Content and Preparation (3 hours) August 2024 (tested)
- CFI Trainer Net. The Deposition Part 2: Questioning Tactics, and Effective Response (3 hours) August 2024 (tested)
- Asbestos Awareness Training July 2024 (2 hours tested)
- Hazwoper Certification-360 Training-June 2024 (40 Hours tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference - DC Mansion Murders (4 hours) – 2023 (tested)
- Introduction to National Insurance Crime Bureau (4 hours) – 2023 (tested)
- Fire Dynamics (4 hours) – 2023 (tested)
- Strategies to disqualify the opponent's expert witness (4 hours) – 2023. (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference Case Study by Dawn Dodsworth ATF 2022.
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference The Internet of Things and Its use in Fire Investigations. ATF 2022 (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference Fatal Fire Scene Investigation 2022. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference Lithium Batteries 2022. (4 hours) (tested)
- NC/SC Fire Investigation Conference -Challenges to Expert Qualifications, Methodology, & Opinions 2022. (4 hours) (tested)
- NC/SC Fire Investigation Conference Prevalence of Hypothesis at Fire Investigations 2022 (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference- Fire dynamics, fire patterns, arc mapping and witness statements– 2021. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference -Wildland Fire Investigations– October 2021. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference - Key Strategies for the Testifying Investigator – October 2021. (4 hours) (tested)
- CFI Trainer Fire Flow Analysis 2021
- CFI Trainer Explosion Dynamics 2021.
- CFI Trainer Critical Thinking Solves Cases. 2021
- CFI Trainer Electric Hybrid Vehicle Fires 2021.
- Pennsylvania International Association of Arson Investigators - Profiling Youthful Fire Setters 2020. (4 hours) (tested)
- Pennsylvania International Association of Arson Investigators Recognition of Deception, Crime and Violence 2020. (4 hours) (tested)
- Dane County Arson Response Initiative (DCARI) Timeline Analysis investigations 2020. (1 hour tested)
- Public Safety UAS Certified FAA small, unmanned aircraft May 2022. 40 hours (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference- Fire Death Investigation (4 hours) – 2019. (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference- ATF-Financial Investigative Services Division: Only a Phone Call Away (4 hours) – 2019. (tested)

- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference- Scientific Method (2 hours) and Fire Dynamics/Appliance Failures (6 hours) – 2019. (tested)
- CFI Trainer Discovery in Criminal Cases. 2019. (tested)
- CFI Trainer Critical Evaluation and Testing of Commonly Reported Accidental Fires. 2019.
- West Virginia Fire Safety Expo-Boston Bombing – 2018. 2 hours
- West Virginia Fire Safety Expo-Temple Shooting – 2018. 2 hours
- West Virginia Fire Safety Expo-Officer Awareness Safety Training – 2018. 2 hours
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference -Electrical Fire Investigations – 2018. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference-Crime Scene Photograph – 2018. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference 921 & 1033 Updates WV IAAI – 2017. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference - Gas Fired Appliances and Fires ATF-2017 (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigations Conference Criminal vs Civil in Arson Investigation – 2017. (4 hours tested)
- Civil Liability Fire Investigations West Virginia State Fire Commission 2017 2 hours (tested)
- Criminal Procedure West Virginia Department of Education and Public Safety 2017. 2 hours (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference, National Association Fire Protection 921 Guide for Fire and Explosion Investigations Updates – 2016. . (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference, National Association Fire Protection 1033 Investigators Professional Qualifications updates – 2016. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference, National Association Fire Protection Gas fired Appliance fires – 2016. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference, National Association Fire Protection Criminal vs Civil in Arson and Fraud Matters – 2016. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Firer Safety Expo, Reid Interview and Interrogation Technique 2016 (tested)
- ATF Fire Investigation Conference, 32 hours. July 2016. (tested)
- Ventilation Flow Paths and Fire Growth: Understanding the Modern Fire Environment
  - Electrical Aspects of Fire Investigation
  - Arson for Profit
  - Evidence Collection
  - ATF Arson & Explosive Profiling Program
  - Origin Matrix Analysis
- CFI Trainer Understanding a Fire Investigator’s Job. 2016 (tested)
- CFI Trainer Process of Elimination. 2016. (tested)
- CFI Trainer Document the Event. 2016. (tested)
- CFI Trainer DNA 2016. (tested)
- CFI Trainer Ethics and The Fire Investigator 2016. (tested)
- CFI Trainer Practical Application of the Relationship Between NFPA 1033 and NFPA 921 2016. (tested)
- CFI Trainer Basic Electricity 2016. (tested)
- CFI Trainer NFPA 1033 and Your Career 2016. (tested)
- CFI Trainer Effective Investigation and Testimony 2016. (tested)
- CFI Trainer How First Responders Affect Fire Investigations. (tested)
- NFPA 921 and 1033 and Negative Corpus 2015. (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference Fire Scene Evidence Collection and Analysis 2015. (16) hours. (8 hours) (tested)
- Texas State Fire Marshal, Under Fire and the Journey to Improve Fire Investigations. May 2016

- West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference (ATF) Origin Fire Pattern Persistence in Post Flash-Over Fires – 2015. (8 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference (ATF) Identifying and Examining Youth Fire Setters and Bomb Makers – 2015 (4 hours) (tested)
- West Virginia Fire Investigation Conference Legal Issues and Courtroom Presentation 2014. (4 hours) (tested)
- Bridgmont Community College Explosive and Blasting Training 2014- 16 Hours (tested)

#### Education:

Lawrenceville Catholic High School 1977

#### Affiliations:

International Association of Arson Investigators.

National Association of Fire and Explosive Investigators.

West Virginia Chapter, International Association of Arson Investigators (WVIAAI) Board member since 2012.

West Virginia Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators (WVIAAI) 1st Vice President, 2017-2018.

West Virginia Chapter International Association of Arson Investigators (WVIAAI) President, 2018-2019. and 2022-2023

West Virginia International Association of Arson Investigators (WVIAAI) Board of Directors 2024-Present

#### Courses Instructed/ Guest Lecturer:

Podcast on Anatomy of Murder, The Delgado children murder.

Bridgevalley Community College Adjunct Instructor Fire Investigation Program (current)

West Virginia State Fire Marshal Academy instructor for arson investigations 2018.

West Virginia Department of Education - Division of Technical and Adult Education Services. Lead instructor for 80-hour Arson II course.

Instructor Evidence Preservation for First Responders and Law Enforcement at fire scenes.

West Virginia University Forensic department, instructor for fire scene reconstruction – February 15th, 2020.

Presenter: Maternal Filicide –A Classic Study in the Use of NFPA 921 in a Murder Conviction. I have presented this training in/to Illinois, Virginia, West Virginia, North Dakota, Minnesota, South Carolina, Alaska, Florida, and Pennsylvania, to law enforcement, fire investigation personnel and forensic students. Presenter International Association of Arson Investigators, International Training Conference (IAAI ITC) 2022.

#### Honors and Awards:

West Virginia International Association of Arson Investigators, Investigator of the Year 2017.

West Virginia International Association of Arson Investigators, Paul C. Ritchie, Member of the Year award – 2015.

Unit Citation for initial response to the Pentagon on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.

Individual Letter of Commendation for initial response to the Pentagon on September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001.